

# Why Start a Neighborhood Watch Program?

There can't be a police officer on every block at all times, so community involvement is a must in order to reduce the opportunity for crime to take place. Citizens such as yourself and your neighbors usually know what is going on in your neighborhoods.

If we can join together in an effort to address crime problems, fears, and issues dealing with your neighborhood concerns, we can make a difference - *but only if we do this TOGETHER.*

Neighborhood Crime Watch programs require active participation of citizens to reduce crime by doing several simple things. The first requirement is neighbors getting to know each other. Secondly, citizens become educated regarding activities that are suspicious and are taught where and how to report it. Thirdly, citizens are taught about home and personal safety.

This program has proved effective in reducing crime throughout the nation and has made a difference in El Paso. If you wish to learn more about Neighborhood Watch Programs, feel free to contact your local police Regional Command Center for more information.



# EL PASO POLICE DEPARTMENT

## CRIME PREVENTION UNIT



Central Regional Command	200 S. Campbell	(915) 838-8013
Westside Regional Command	4801 Osborne	(915) 585-6124
Pebble Hills Regional Command	10780 Pebble Hills	(915) 599-5898
Northeast Regional Command	9600 Dyer	(915) 759-2004
Mission Valley Regional Command	9011 Escobar	(915) 872-3703

### NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM GOALS

- To establish/improve communication among neighbors
- To reduce criminal victimization to those residents who participate in the program
- To increase the incidence of citizens' reports of crimes in progress

#### THE PROGRAM SHOULD:

1. increase citizen awareness of crime problems and their impact on the community;
2. maintain a cooperative system of surveillance over each others' homes, property, children, and vehicles;
3. encourage accurate and prompt reporting of crimes in progress or suspicious activities in the area;
4. encourage citizens to come forward as witnesses.

#### DUTIES OF THE PARTICIPANTS:

1. arrange for a security survey (home inspection) of their residences;
2. participate in Operation Identification by engraving their possessions and noting serial numbers;
3. keep the Block Captain informed of any changes in their contact information (phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc.);
4. notify the Block Captain and/or request a "Code Watch" (to the Police Department) when going on vacation or going away for a long period of time;
5. regularly attend the neighborhood meetings;
6. attend training offered by the department when possible.

#### DUTIES OF THE CO-CAPTAINS:

1. assist the Block Captain as needed;
2. assume the duties of the Block Captain when they are away/unable to attend functions as needed.

#### DUTIES OF THE BLOCK CAPTAINS

1. acts as liaison between the neighborhood residents and law enforcement;
2. maintains a list of emergency information on all participating households in the neighborhood and acts as an "information center";
3. schedules meetings (get-togethers) and encourages all households to participate;
4. attends annual Block Captain training sessions;
5. notifies the area Crime Prevention Officer of all scheduled meetings or any meetings held (submit copy of flyer or meeting form by email, phone, fax, or regular mail);
6. collects monies, purchases signs, distributes pamphlets and any other pertinent information needed to keep neighbors informed.

# Neighborhood Watch Program

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Some ideas to promote continuing interest within Neighborhood Watch Programs:

1. Social Activities are one of the best ways to get to know your neighbors. It is easier to carry on conversations, exchange personal information, and just get to know the character of your neighbors in a relaxed atmosphere. Some examples are:
  - a. Block parties
  - b. Seasonal gatherings
    - i. Spring – ice cream social
    - ii. Summer – swimming party
    - iii. Fall – Halloween party
    - iv. Winter – Christmas party
  - c. National Night Out
  - d. Welcome Wagon Get-Together (for new neighbors)
2. Business Meetings
  - a. Meetings to discuss any crime problems the neighborhood is experiencing
  - b. Information meeting with Police Liaison (Crime Prevention Officer) – attend Block Captains' training sessions
  - c. Neighborhood improvement meetings
    - i. Purchase additional street lights
    - ii. Secure abandoned/unoccupied houses being used illegally (stash houses)
  - d. Child Safety
    - i. Start a Safe House(s)
    - ii. Amber Alert ID Registration
    - iii. Drug and Gang Awareness/Prevention
  - e. Guest Speakers
    - i. Various law enforcement agencies
    - ii. Security companies
      - a) wrought iron
      - b) home/auto alarm systems
      - c) personal safety companies
      - d) HEAT drive (Auto Theft Prevention Unit)
      - e) Sex Offender Unit
3. Neighborhood Crime Watch Projects
  - a. Neighborhood garage sale (for the purchase of streets lights or other needed items)
  - b. Neighborhood newsletter
    - i. Problem areas
    - ii. Success stories

These are just a few ideas that can be used to improve the living conditions in your neighborhood. Many more topics can be addressed in meetings. Keep in mind that, as a group, you can accomplish great deeds.

# Rules for Neighborhood Watch

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A Neighborhood Watch Program (NWP) will be considered established when all of the following criteria have been met.

- The homes in the block are participating.
- A Block Captain has been designated.
- The homes in the block have had a home security survey.
- Neighborhood Crime Watch signs have been posted at both ends of the block.

A list of all Block Captain will be maintained by the Crime Prevention unit. To ensure that the list is correctly updated, it will be the responsibility of the Block Captain to contact the Crime Prevention Officer whenever there is any change, i.e. change in contact numbers, e-mail addresses, etc.

Each Block Captain must hold a minimum of four (4) meetings of his/her NWP per year or have good communication with neighbors. Each time a meeting is held, the Block Captain should notify the Crime Prevention Officer and advise him/her of the meeting to inform the officer of the issues that were covered as well as any resident concerns.

Each Block Captain must attend Block Captain training conducted by the Crime Prevention Unit. All Block Captains will be notified by mail as to the dates and times of the workshops.

In the event that the Block Captain becomes inactive, moves, or for some other reason, discontinues the duties as Captain, the Co-Captain should call the area Crime Prevention Officer and request that a new Captain be selected to take over.

NWP window stickers will not be given to homes that are not participating in the program. Members who are moving out of the neighborhood should be encouraged by the Block Captain to remove their window stickers. When new tenants become members, the Block Captain will issue new window stickers to them.



## Neighborhood Watch Signs

Locally you can purchase neighborhood watch signs from Mr. Paul Lucey at 592-3050 (after 5 p.m. please). There are also places that sell signs on the internet such as at [www.nnwi.org](http://www.nnwi.org)

After purchasing your signs, contact your Crime Prevention Officer. Give the signs to your officer who will then take them to the City where they will make a request to have them installed through the City's Traffic and Transportation Division.

If the sign is to be erected where there are no existing poles, a pole will be required and must be purchased by the Neighborhood Watch Group. **PLEASE discuss this with your crime prevention officer prior to purchasing a pole.**

The following are the dimensions for the poles.  
**They must be exact to these specifications.**

10 & ½ ft. in height  
2 inches inside diameter  
2 & 3/8 inches outside diameter  
Schedule 40 (thickness of the steel)  
Galvanized pipe

Note that Neighborhood Watch Signs run approximately \$21.67 each

Neighborhood Watch Window Stickers run approximately:

5 ½ in. x 8 ½ in. = \$1.10 each  
4 ½ in x 5 ½ in. = .90 cents each

(Your crime prevention officer usually has stickers available. Please check with them prior to purchasing stickers.)

Note that prices are approximate and may increase due to the manufacturer's cost.

# WHAT IS SUSPICIOUS?

## When to call the POLICE

Some people fail to call the police simply because they are not aware of what seemingly innocent activities might be suspicious. Others may notice suspicious activity and be hesitant to call for fear of seeming a “nosy neighbor.” Still, others take it for granted that someone else has already called. Call the police immediately about all suspicious activity, and do it yourself. Don’t worry about “bothering” them because this is what the police are for. Don’t worry about being embarrassed if your suspicions prove unfounded. Think instead about what could happen if you don’t act.

## What is suspicious?

Basically anything that seems even slightly “out of place” for the area or during the time of day in which it occurs may mean criminal activity. Some of the most obvious things to watch for and report include:

- A stranger entering your neighbor’s house when it is unoccupied may be a burglar.
  - A scream heard anywhere may mean a robbery or rape is occurring.
- Offers of merchandise at ridiculously low prices could mean it is stolen property.
  - Anyone removing accessories, license plates, or gasoline from a car.
- Anyone peeking into parked cars may be looking for a car to steal or for valuables left in the car.
- Persons entering or leaving a business place after hours could mean burglars.
- The sound of breaking glass or other loud noises could mean an accident, house break-in or vandalizing.
- Persons loitering around schools, parks, secluded areas or in the neighborhood that do not live there could be burglars.
- Someone going door to door in your neighborhood. Watch them for a while. If after a few houses are visited, if they try to open a door to see if it is locked or goes into a back or side yard, it could be a burglar. Such action is even more suspicious if one person remains in the front, or if there is a car following them a few houses away.
- Anyone forcing entrance to or tampering with a residence, business, or vehicle is suspicious anytime, anywhere.
- A person running, especially if carrying something of value, could be leaving the scene of a crime.
- Carrying property could be suspicious too, if it’s at an unusual hour or in any unusual place.
- A lot of human traffic to and from a certain residence is not suspicious unless it occurs on a daily or very regular basis, especially during late or unusual hours. It could possibly be the scene of a “stash house” (drug-house) or a “fence” operation.

- Any vehicle moving slowly and without lights, or following a course that appears aimless or repetitive is suspicious in any location, but particularly so in areas of schools, parks and playgrounds. Occupants may be “casing” for places to rob or burglarize, or could possibly be a drug dealer or sex offender.
  - Parked, occupied vehicles containing one or more persons are especially significant if observed at an unusual hours. They could be possible lookouts for a burglary in progress, even if the occupants appear to be lovers.
- Apparent business transactions conducted from a vehicle, especially around schools or parks and if juveniles are involved, could mean possible drug sales.
- A person being forced into a vehicle – especially if they are small children (or females) may mean a possible kidnapping.
- The abandoned vehicle (junked vehicle) parked on your block may be a stolen car.

While some of the suspicious situations described could have innocent explanations, the police department would rather look into these situations that be called when it is too late. Your call could save a life, prevent an injury, or stop a criminal act.

#### INFORMATION NEEDED BY POLICE

- What happened?
  - When?
  - Where?
- Is anyone injured?
- Vehicle license plates / description of vehicle involved
  - Direction they left
  - Descriptions of persons (including clothing)
- Age, race, sex, height and weight (pick out some unique characteristics which will help you identify the suspect)

**EMERGENCY call 9-1-1**

**Non-emergency call 832-4400**

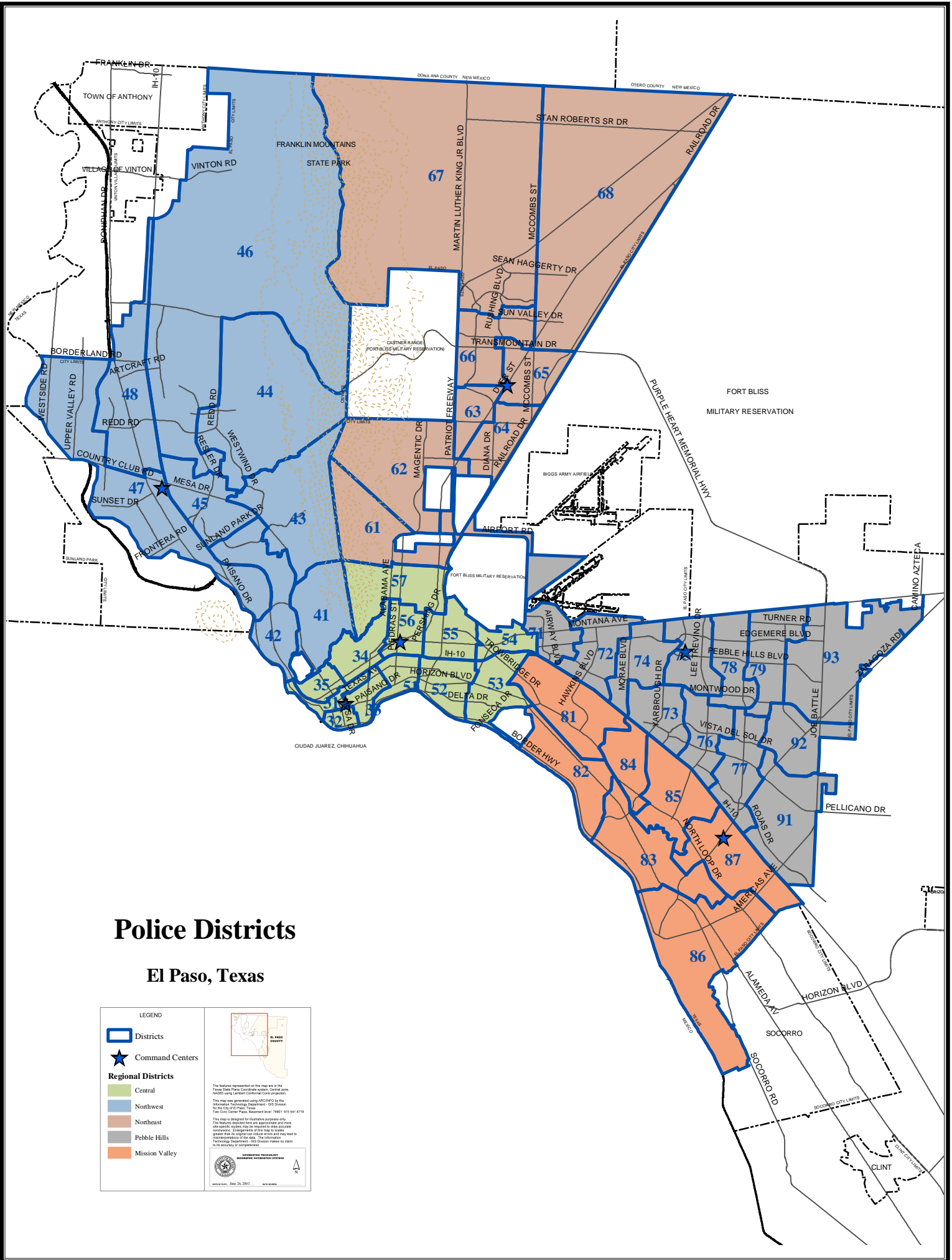
**Phone in reports call 832-4436**

**To report Graffiti call 621-6789**

**Crime Stoppers call 566-TIPS (566-8477)**

Now you can USE YOUR COMPUTER TO REPORT CRIMES On line!

Log onto  
[www.eppd.org](http://www.eppd.org)



# Police Districts

El Paso, Texas

LEGEND

- Districts
- Command Centers

Regional Districts

- Central
- Northwest
- Northeast
- Pebble Hills
- Mission Valley

This map is intended for illustrative purposes only. The boundaries depicted here are approximate and may not reflect the most current information. The information is provided for general reference only and should not be used for legal or official purposes. The information is provided for general reference only and should not be used for legal or official purposes.

Source: City of El Paso, Texas. Date: 06/26/2007. www.elpaso.gov



**Central Regional Command**

30's and 50's

200 S. Campbell St.  
El Paso, TX 79901  
(915) 577-5000

**Crime Prevention Officer  
Henry Slack  
838-8013**

**Mission Valley Regional  
Command**

80's

9011 Escobar Dr.  
El Paso, TX 79907  
(915) 872-3600

**Crime Prevention Officer Linda  
Olvera 872-3703**

**Northeast Regional Command**

60's

9600 Dyer St.  
EL Paso, TX 79924  
(915) 759-2000

**Crime Prevention Officer Jeff  
Bell 759-2004**

**Pebble Hills Regional  
Command**

70's and 90's

10780 Pebble Hills  
EL Paso, TX 79935  
(915) 599-5900

**Crime Prevention Officer  
Luis Gomez 599-5898**

**Westside Regional Command**

40's

4801 Osborne Dr.  
El Paso, Texas 79922  
(915) 585-6000

**Crime Prevention Officer Jose  
Milan 585-6124**

El Paso Police Department  
Citizen' s Advisory Boards  
911 N. Piedras  
564-7000



Our Citizens Advisory Boards would like you to join us during our meetings or to join the Advisory Board.

The role of the board is to advise each Regional Commander of community problems and concerns. Community problems are identified and solutions are proposed during these meetings. The police department provides information on the department' s role and guest speakers provide training on topics of interest and concern for the community. We would like to invite you to attend one of our monthly meetings. If you are interested, meetings take place each month at different dates at the different Regional Command Centers.

Central Regional Command - 1<sup>st</sup> Monday each month at 5:00 p.m.

Mission Valley Regional Command - 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday each month at 6:00 p.m.

Northeast Regional Command - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday each month at 6:00 p.m.

Pebble Hills Regional Command - 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday each month at 6:00 p.m.

Westside Regional Command - 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month at 6:30 p.m.

If you have concerns or would like to find out what is going on in your neighborhood or community you are welcome to attend. This is a great opportunity to meet the officers and citizens that want to make the valley a better and safer place to live for all. These meetings are open to the public.